

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A disposable diaper comprising:

a basic absorbent batt structure;

at least one supplementary absorbent batt structure;

said basic absorbent batt structure having a liquid-pervious body faceable surface and a liquid-impervious garment faceable surface, and a front waist region, a rear waist region and a crotch region;

said supplementary absorbent batt structure having a liquid-pervious body faceable surface and an opposite lower surface, and a proximal end portion lying in said front waist portion and a distal end portion lying in said crotch region, and being placed upon the body faceable surface of said basic absorbent batt structure, the distal end portion terminating in a free end;

an elastic member under an extension in a transverse direction extending in said transverse direction across the diaper, having transversely opposite end portions connected to side edge portions of said basic and supplementary absorbent batt structure, and having opposing surfaces that extend between said opposite end portions, the elastic member being positioned between the supplementary batt structure and the basic absorbent batt structure and being spaced from said free end ~~and toward said proximal end portion~~; and

contraction of said elastic member causing the side edge portions of said supplementary absorbent batt structure to be pulled nearer to a longitudinal center line of said diaper so that said distal end portion of said supplementary absorbent batt structure curves so as to delineate a circular arc which is convex upward with respect to the body faceable surface of said basic absorbent batt structure and consequently a pocket opening from said front waist region toward said crotch region is formed between said basic and supplementary absorbent batt structures, said contraction causing each of said opposing surfaces of the elastic member to be spaced from said supplementary absorbent batt structure and said basic absorbent batt structure.

2. (original) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said basic absorbent batt

structure comprises a liquid-permeable topsheet, a liquid-impermeable backsheet and a liquid-absorbent first core disposed therebetween.

3. (original) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said supplementary absorbent batt structure comprises a liquid-absorbent second core and a liquid-permeable sheet covering said second core.

4. (previously presented) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein contraction of said elastic member causes side edge regions of said basic absorbent batt structure to be pulled nearer to said longitudinal center line of said diaper so that a zone of said basic absorbent batt structure underlying said distal end portion of said supplementary absorbent batt structure curves downward with respect to the lower surface of said supplementary absorbent batt structure.

5. (currently amended) The disposable diaper according to Claim 1, further including
a second supplementary absorbent batt structure having a body faceable surface and an opposed lower surface and lying on the body faceable surface of said basic absorbent batt structure so as to extend from said rear waist region toward said crotch region, said second supplementary absorbent batt structure comprising a proximal end portion lying in said rear waist region and a distal end portion lying in said crotch region so as to extend in said longitudinal direction, the distal end portion terminating in a free end, and

a second elastic member under an extension in said transverse direction extending in said transverse direction across the diaper, having transversely opposite end portions substantially connected to the side edge portions of said basic and second supplementary absorbent batt structure, and having opposing surfaces that extend between said opposite end portions, the second elastic member being positioned between the second supplementary batt structure and the basic absorbent batt structure and being spaced from said free end of said second supplemental batt structure ~~and toward said proximal end portion of said second supplemental batt structure~~; wherein

contraction of said second elastic member causes side edge portions of said second supplementary absorbent batt structure to be pulled nearer to said longitudinal center line so that said distal end portion of said second supplementary absorbent batt structure

curves upward with respect to the body faceable surface of said basic absorbent batt structure and consequently a pocket opening from said rear waist region toward said crotch region is formed between said basic and supplementary absorbent batt structure, said contraction causing each of said opposing surfaces of said second elastic member to be spaced from said second supplementary absorbent batt structure and said basic absorbent batt structure; and

said distal end portions of said two supplementary absorbent batt structures are spaced from each other by a predetermined dimension in said longitudinal direction so that the body faceable surface of said basic absorbent batt structure is exposed between said distal end portions of said two supplementary absorbent batt structures.

6. (previously presented) A disposable diaper according to Claim 5, wherein contraction of said second elastic member causes the side edge regions of said basic absorbent batt structure to be pulled nearer to said longitudinal center line of said diaper so that a zone of said basic absorbent batt structure underlying said distal end portion of said second supplementary absorbent batt structure curves downward with respect to the lower surface of said second supplementary absorbent batt structure.

7. (previously presented) A disposable diaper according to Claim 5, wherein a dimension by which said supplementary absorbent batt structure extends from said front waist region to said crotch region is larger than a dimension by which said second supplementary absorbent batt structure extends from said rear waist region to said crotch region so that the body faceable surface of said basic absorbent batt structure is exposed in a zone of said crotch region nearer to said rear waist region.

8. (previously presented) A disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein an absorbing capacity for body discharges per unit area of said supplementary absorbent batt structure is greater than that of said basic absorbent batt structure.

9-12. canceled.